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SHS
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Patient Information on Gonorrhea

Definition: Gonorrhea is an infection that is spread by unprotected sexual contact and can involve the genital, urinary tract, throat, and rectum of both males and females. The formal name for this STD is *Neisseria gonorrhea*.

Statistics: Most commonly, gonorrhea occurs in males between the ages of 20-24 and in females from 18-24. It is usually contracted from a person who has the infection but has ignored the signs and symptoms. Gonorrhea incubates in the system from 1-13 days. Symptoms can occur 3-30 days after sexual contact with an infected person. On average, symptoms occur within 2-5 days after exposure.

Signs and Symptoms:

Females

1. Up to 80% have no symptoms
2. Abnormal, thick green vaginal discharge
3. Frequency, pain on urination
4. Urethral discharge
5. Rectal pain and discharge
6. Unilateral labial pain and swelling
7. Abnormal menstrual bleeding (increased dysmenorrhea aka painful periods)
8. Lower abdominal discomfort
9. Sore throat

Males

1. 4-10% have no symptoms
2. Frequency, pain on urination
3. Burning sensation in the urethra (the tube where pee comes out)
4. Whitish discharge from the penis in the early stages.
5. Yellow or greenish discharge from penis in the late stages
6. Sore throat

Diagnosis: Your health care provider will diagnose you by getting a thorough history of who your partners have been and if they have been infected by gonorrhea. If you are a female, a vaginal swab will be taken for culture. If you are a man, you will be asked to give a urine sample and culture will be taken. If gonorrhea is suspected in the throat a culture will be taken.

Treatment: Gonorrhea has known to become resistant to antibiotics and the treatment may change. For uncomplicated gonorrhea your PCP may prescribe the following: Ceftriaxone 125 mg IM (a shot) in a single dose or Cefixime 400mg orally in a single dose or Ciprofloxacin 500mg in a single dose or Ofloxacin 400mg in a single dose or Levofloxacin 250mg in a single dose.

Complications of Gonorrhea:

Females

1. If this STD goes untreated, it can lead to Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID). PID can cause severe abdominal cramping, pelvic pain, and a high fever that can lead to severe scarring of the fallopian tubes and cause infertility. PID can be potentially life threatening.

Males

1. Untreated gonorrhea in men will cause scarring in the passageway for sperm and cause pain, sterility, and erectile dysfunction.

Males and Females

1. Untreated both sexes can get a form of arthritis caused by gonorrhea and sometimes skin lesions.

Prevention: The most important way to prevent gonorrhea is to either abstain from sex or use a latex condom. If you are in a monogamous relationship both partners should be tested before engaging in unprotected sex.